GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2347
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
INCREASE IN CABLE SUBSCRIPTION
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cable operators have threatened to increase the subscription for customers in view of the hike in fees charged by broadcasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a), (b) & (c): The charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators and by cable operators to Multi system operators/broadcaster are regulated by TRAI. The charges were frozen at the levels of 26.12.2003. To allow for inflation, these charges have been allowed an increase upto 7% with effect from 1.1.2005. These ceilings do not apply to pay channels, which came up after 26.12.2003 or to Free-to-Air channels converted to pay channels after 26.12.2003. However, TRAI has specified that rates of these channels must be similar to the rates of similar channels as on 26.12.2003 and provided on a stand-alone basis either individually or as a part of new separate bouquet.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India examines complaints of hike in cable charges in accordance with their Tariff Order issued in this regard and takes action as required under the law.